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THE LOGICAL BASIS OF THE SANITARY POLICY OF MOSQUITO REDUCTION.¹

THE great science of preventive medicine is often called upon to consider new policies of public sanitation, which, whether they ultimately prove successful or not, are always of profound interest and importance to mankind. Quite recently a new measure of this kind has been proposed, which in the opinion of many promises to rank with house sanitation and preventive inoculation as a means of saving human life on a large scale. Unfortunately, its value has not yet been clearly demonstrated—with the result that it is not being employed as largely as some of us hoped would be the case. I feel, therefore, that I can not better acknowledge the honor you have done me in inviting me to address you to-day than by attempting to discuss this important theme—in the hope that the discussion may prove profitable to the cause of public health. The new sanitary policy to which I refer is that which aims at the reduction of disease-bearing insects, especially those which are the disseminating agents of malaria, yellow fever and filariasis.

I presume that it is scarcely necessary to discuss the evidence which has established the connection between various insects and arthropods and many diseases of man and of animals. The fact that the pathogenetic parasites which produce those great scourges of the tropics just mentioned are carried by gnats is now too well known to require reiteration. It is necessary only to

¹ Read at the International Congress of Arts and Science.